12-3-87

Inside Today:

White supremist meeting ignites furor

See page 8

Jammin' blues

See page 4

Thursday
Dec. 3, 1987

Valley Star

Van Nuys, California | Serving Valley College for 39 years | Vol. 39, No. 10

NEWS BRIEFS

County asked to review trustee election date

The Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees asked the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to consider changing the currently scheduled trustee elections to a different date.

The LACCD voted unanimously, Wednesday, Nov. 18, to call on the county to review a proposed election date change which would move the election date, which is presently scheduled in odd-numbered years, to even-numbered years.

"This motion is intended to determine the feasibility of doing this and what the cost would be," said Board President Hal Garvin in a news news release.

"If it would save us a significant amount of our election expenses, we could put that money into educational services," said Garvin.

ASU sponsored rape awareness seminar to be held on campus

A rape awareness seminar, sponsored by the Associated Student Union and the Center for the Advancement of Business, Labor & Education, is slated for Dec. 16.

The event, from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., will cover such topics as "Myths Surrounding Rape" to "How Rape Affects Men," as well as financial and counseling help for rape victims.

The seminar will be held in Monarch Hall and is open to the public.

International Business Communications class to begin next semester

KABC Talkradio's business and finance commentator Rob Rosefsky is scheduled to talk at Los Angeles Harbor College on "Investments and Retirement Strategies After the Market Crash of '87," according to a news release issued by the Los Angeles Community College District.

Rosefsky's discussion will be on Saturday, Dec. 5 and will be free and open to the public.

It is part of a seminar conducted by the LACCD's Instructional Television program, "Personal Finance & Money Management."

The talk will begin at 1:15 p.m. in room 120 of the college's Liberal Arts Building.

'Personal Finance, Money Management' seminar announced

The Business Department will begin a new class in the Los Angeles Community College District called International Business Communications.

The course will be taught by Professor D. Outram, of the Business Department.

Outram, who is involved with International Business Educators Association, said there are problems of communication in management with people from other countries. Outram said that intercultural differences will be dealt with in this new course.

Youths suspected of car theft arrested

By KAREN BROOME
Entertainment Editor

The day before Thanksgiving was not quiet at Valley College. In fact the opposite was true as a plethora of police cars and officers with guns drawn gathered on Burbank Boulevard, behind Lot H, to retrieve a stolen yellow Datsun from three juveniles.

Undercover police officers noticed the car cruising suspiciously through the campus parking lot. That was enough provocation for police to run an identification check on the vehicle.

Two students from Grant High School and one from Virgil Junior High were handcuffed, taken into custody on the suspicion of car theft, then released to their parents.

Almost simultaneously, around 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26, two other Grant students were apprehended by campus police while attempting to take a brown Honda from Lot E by the football field.

It is unlikely that a penalty stiffer than probation will be applied because these are juveniles, and this is their first offense, said officer David Moye.

On a second offense, a juvenile could get probation, be sent to Juvenile Hall or go to a camp to work in the fields. Habitual offenders are turned over to the California Youth Authority where they are detained until age 25, added Moye.

So far this semester, 47 cars have been stolen from the area which includes and surrounds Valley College, according to a LAPD computer.

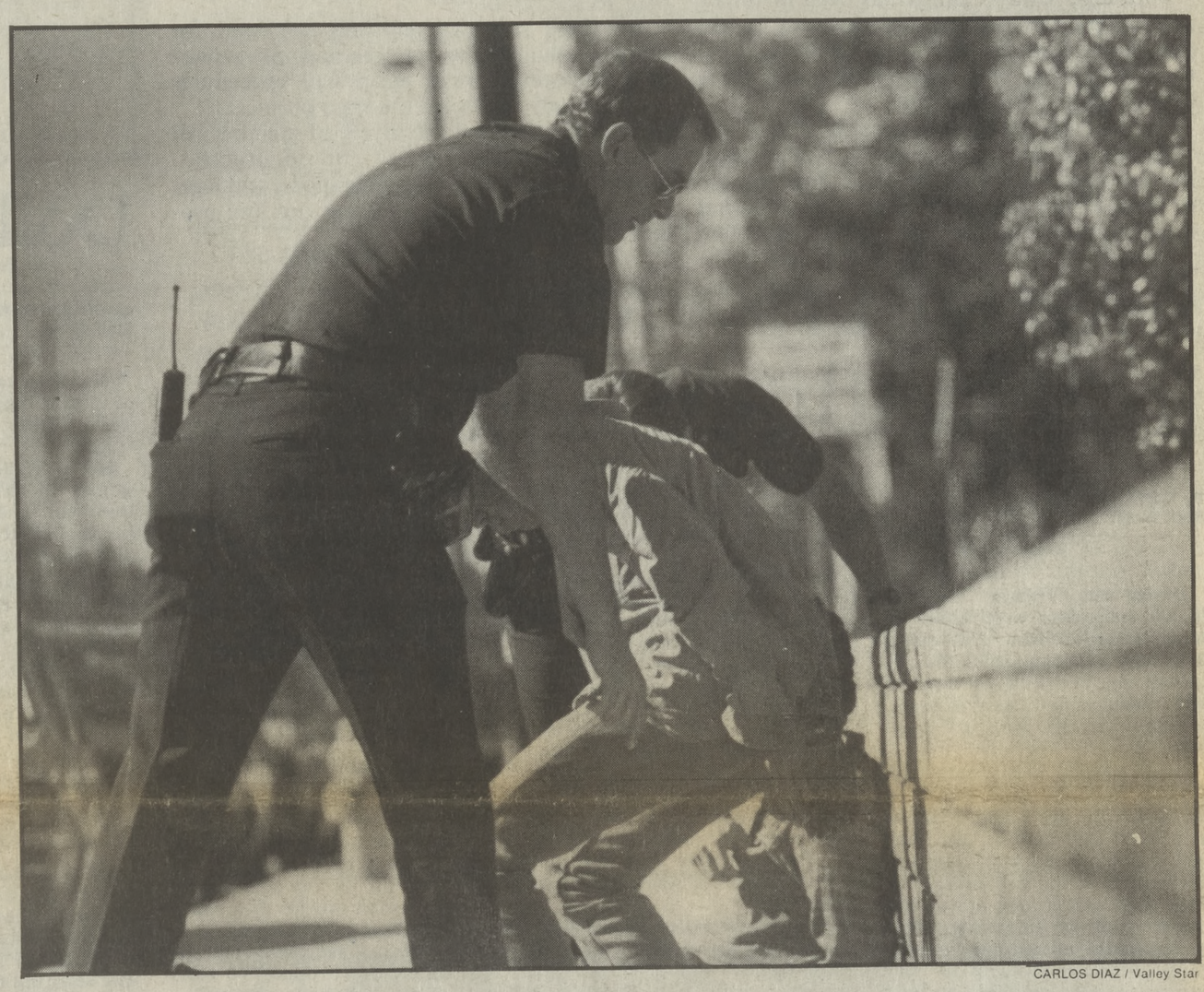
A good percentage of these automobiles are retrieved by the Rampart Division, which is in the downtown area where Grant's Satellite Busing Program departs.

More than 1300 Grant students are mandatorily bused to school to relieve overcrowded downtown educational facilities. An additional percentage of students are voluntarily bused with parental approval.

Police speculate that many of these thefts occur when students decide not to attend class, steal vehicles from the Valley lots, joyride and then drive them home.

"In the last three weeks, nine Grant students have

(Please see, THEFT, Page 3)



CARLOS DIAZ / Valley Star

An LAPD officer arrests four youths after they allegedly broke into cars in Valley's parking lot. Valley College police have reported 22 automobile break-ins and nine auto thefts this semester. Nine Grant students were arrested within the last three weeks for auto-related offenses.

Trustee Knox, other officials tour campus today

By MICHELE SCHWARTZ
News Editor

Trustee Wallace B. Knox will meet with administrators, students and community leaders today on campus.

"The purpose of Knox's visit is to become more aware of the issues on campus by visiting many colleges," said Dr. Mary Lee, president of Valley College.

First on Knox's agenda is a meeting with Lee; Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of administration; and Dr.Edwin Young, vice president of academic affairs. He will then visit with classified staff at various locations on campus.

Knox will also address the Associated Student Union Executive Committee. "He will discuss various issues relating to Valley," said Kevin Stewart, ASU treasurer.

"We are delighted that Knox is coming," said Lee, "The more the board (members) know about various colleges, the easier it is for them to do their job. A job that affects all of us."

Although the administration is pleased that Knox is taking time out of his schedule to visit the campus not everyone is as optimistic.

"The last board felt it didn't have enough contact with the schools," said Laura Lyons, ASU president, "so now it is trying to placate us (the schools) since it has done nothing to help the students."

Stewart said, "one of the topics which will be discussed is the boards recent decision to double its salaries."

Knox was one of six board members who voted affirmatively, Nov. 4, to raise their yearly salaries from $12,000 to $24,000.

"The board raised administrative and faculty salaries, that is why the faculty is not being vocal. They have what they want," said Lyons.

"What have they done for the students?" added Lyons. "There is no nurse on campus, only one job placement office in the entire district and the board has yet to bring back the dental and nursing programs."

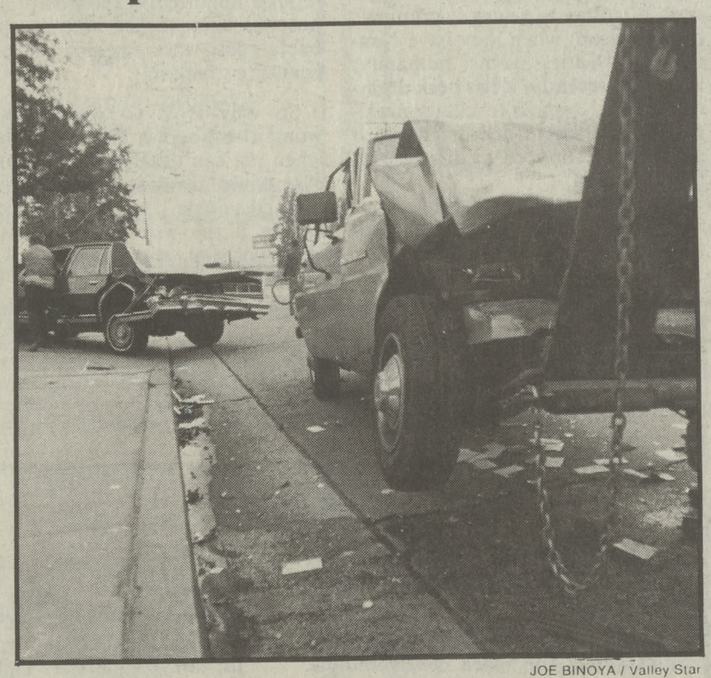
These issues and others will be discussed with Knox when he meets the ASU Executive Committee and later in the day when he meets with city and community leaders.

Among the people scheduled to meet with Knox are Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky (District 5, Los Angeles); Mrs. Dodo Meyer, principal administrative coordinator, Mayor Bradley's office; Larry Benedict, president, Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Shannon Stack, faculty president at Valley.

Knox's visit to Valley will conclude around 5 p.m. after meeting with the president and vice presidents.

"Knox is not the first board member to visit the campus in recent weeks," said Lee, "Dr. David Lopez-Lee was here last week to also familiarize himself with the campus."

Campus cars collide...



JOE BINOYA / Valley Star

Smashed cars are cleared away after a collision northbound on Fulton Avenue near Parking Lot A.

Valley College; the way we were

A look back at influencial people and events in Valley's 39-year history

By PUNITHA YOGARATNAM
Assoc. News Editor
and CHRISTINA ICAMEN
Staff Writer

Many influential people and events have been a part of Valley College's history since its opening in Sept. 1949

These people and events have changed and shaped the minds of students and falculty members throughout the years. Some events have been positive, while others have left a negative imprint in Valley's history.

The speakers ranged from such prominent figures as Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, Tom Hayden and recently Mayor Tom Bradly.

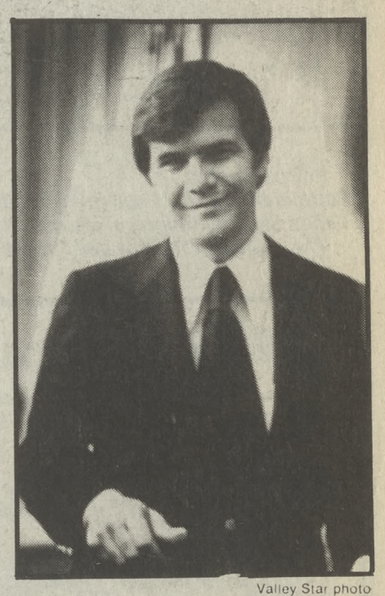
There are many photos and accompaning stories in the *Valley Star* archives about *the way we were.*

Our first presentation is KNBC's famous anchorperson, Tom Brokaw, who once spoke in Monarch Hall about "Newscasting in America" on Jan. 7, 1971.

With the Reagan-Gorbachev summit around the corner, it's not surprising that most, if not all, network stations are planning to cover this important meeting. One of the networks to cover the summit will be KNBC (Channel 4) with Tom Brokaw as one of the reporters.

Brokaw, however, did not wait for Gorbachev to come to the United States. Instead, he went to the Soviet Union to interview its Secretary General. On Saturday, he was in Moscow taping an exclusive interview with the Soviet leader.

On Monday, after flying from one country to another, Brokaw was back in Washington to moderate a debate by 12 presidential candidates. The program, televised on Tuesday at 9 p.m., was entitled "America's Future: A Presidential Debate."



Valley Star photo

Tom Brokaw, KNBC anchorman, was one of many influential figures who have spoken on campus over the last 39 years.

—STAR EDITORIAL—

"Date Rape" Increase

An increasingly alarming statistic reported by the Los Angeles Police Department points out that a growing number of sexual attacks on women have been classified as "date rapes." These are attacks by someone the victim knows.

The LAPD figures also show that the frequency of "date rapes" in the San Fernando Valley has increased over the last three years. Nearly 2,000 rapes were committed in Los Angeles from Nov. 14, 1986 to Nov. 14, 1987, according to police. While a majority of these sexual attacks occurred in the downtown area, sexual assaults in the San Fernando Valley were also quite prevalent.

Although Valley College has been fortunate not to have had any reported rapes during the past four years, according to Campus Police Capt. J.J. Wolf, it is essential that an attitude of awareness be maintained.

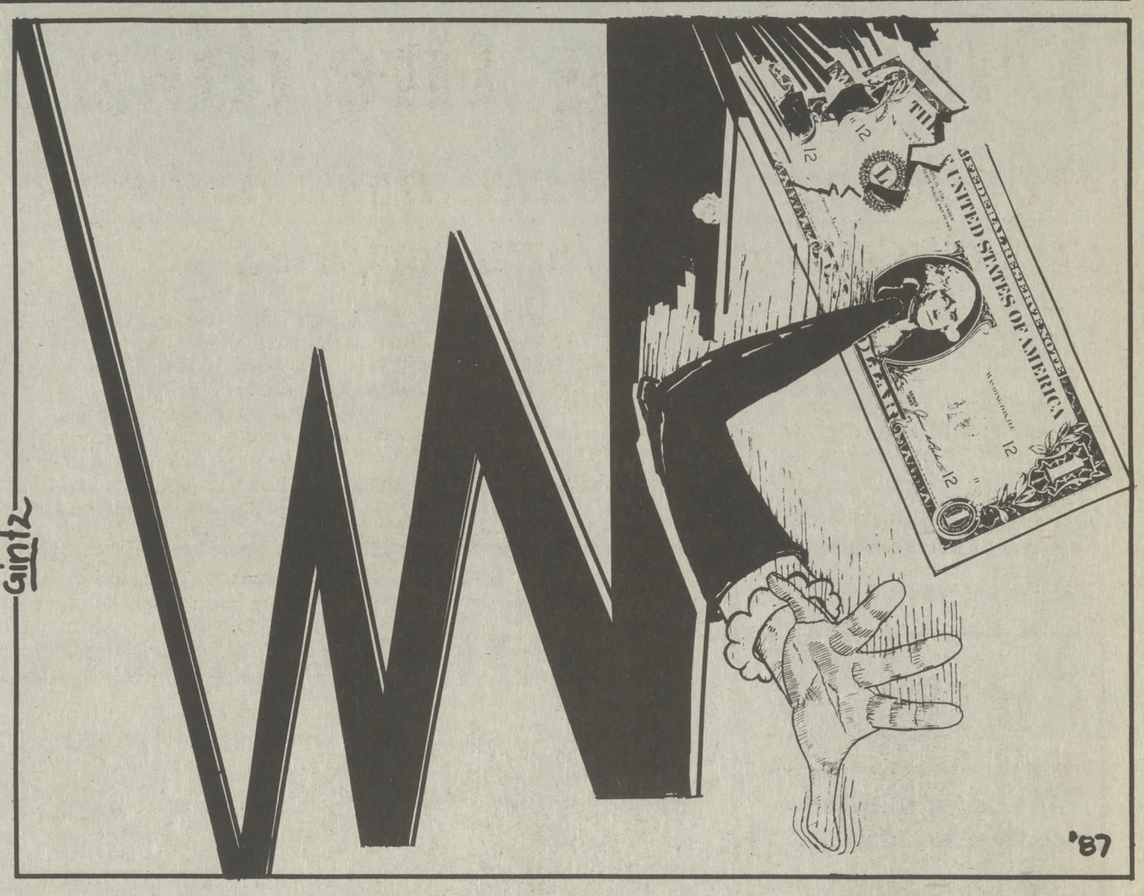
Because of the type of assault it is, many "date rapes" are never reported. Consequently, the rapists are never arrested and brought to trial. Police stress that if an individual has been a victim of rape it is extremely important that the assault be reported immediately. This will greatly aid in the apprehension of the rapist.

A 1985 national survey of more than 6,000 students on 32 college campuses revealed that one in eight women had been raped. That study which was cited in California State Assembly Resolution 46, passed earlier this year indicated that 85 percent of these incidents occurred among students who knew one another.

A more startling revelation in the survey was that more than one-third of the women raped did not discuss the experience with anyone and more than 90 percent did not report the incident to the police.

All these statistics reinforce the need for more involvment by colleges and universities in formulating formal policies or procedures to effectively deal with the rape problem.

It is essential that the safety of members of academic communities be protected. Academic institutions have the moral and legal responsibility to provide this service and protection.



Dollar for dollar, women lose

By GRACIE SHAMOSH
Staff Writer

The American dream is the result of success, especially in the business world. Ideally, it is offered to both sexes.

However, discrimination against women in the work force stems from an underlying belief that women have to be masculine to succeed in the male world.

In the economic sphere, women are largely confined to boring, monotonous work under the supervision of men and are treated unequally with regard to pay, promotion and responsibility.

Generally, men in the work force regard women as inferior and find it especially difficult to work for women who maintain positions of authority. In fact, men have a tendency to disregard any woman having authority.

"Men find it very difficult to believe that I did not marry into the business," said Dominique Duncan, dress shop owner. "Men often think that a woman's role is in the home. Any other business-like activity that women decide to pursue is unimportant and is basically just to pass the time...they don't take women seriously enough."

In addition, she said, "Men often feel that in order for women to be involved in the work force, she must wear a suit and tie, when in fact I want to look feminine for I am still a woman striving to make it in a man's world."

There is an increasing upward trend of women's participation in the labor force, which is expected to continue. In the 1800 s, women made up 4.6 percent of the work force; in 1900, 13.3 percent and in 1950, 27.9 percent. Ten years later, the number was 40.7 percent, a figure that was orginally predicted for 1985.

The average female earnings were 60 percent of male earnings in 1959. In 1987, a woman is earning only 76 cents compared to a man's dollar.

A recent study indicated that increased participation of women in the work force will result in a rising female share in the labor force. It is predicted that by the year 2000, 61 percent of all American women will be working.

There was a time when women's positions, for the most part, were distinctly subordinate to men's. They were totally dependent upon men economically, had no privileges, relatively few legal rights and were denied access to formal education.

Susan A. Carleo, project director from the Valley College Career Guidance Center, realized from her 15-year teaching experience in Family Consumer Studies that "People set very low standards for themselves.

"It is up to the individual to motivate and train themselves to pursue a non-traditional career," she further explained.

Carleo focused primarily on women in her classes. "I was encouraged by federal and state regulations to promote more non-traditional choices in careers for women and men," she said.

"Through this program, I keep reminding people by presenting information in an equitable way through various materials."

What is it that enables society to prevent women from having both serious careers and a family life?

Women have played the role of the victim, the emotional minority who unfortunately have been accustomed to maintaining the role of homemaker.

But these roles have drastically changed over the years. Now many women choose careers over marriage, postponing a family until their 30 s.

Originally, this behavior was not accepted by society. However, as women's liberation and the pursuit for equal rights continues, society will enable discrimination in the work force to diminish.

Fear spurs violence in "Handgun War"

By RON LANCASTER
Staff Writer

During the Vietnam Conflict, 58,000 Americans were killed. A large number of young lives wasted to be sure. But compared to the way citizens have been killing themselves with handguns in the last ten years, it makes Vietnam look like small potatoes.

From 1975 to 1984, more than 117,000 persons were killed by handguns. We are killing ourselves at a faster rate than modern warfare. And that's just with handguns. We must be at war with ourselves!

At least soldiers are armed and trained. Most of the persons killed by handguns are completely innocent victims: unarmed and harmless. Little girls shot by little boys playing "bang, bang," old ladies caught in a crossfire between rival gangs, and whole families murdered by enraged husbands, are typical examples of the senseless slaughter going on everyday in America. We are a dangerous lot.

The situation is growing worse. It is estimated that there are in excess of 60 million handguns now in circulation and that by the year 2000, there will be 100 million of them. One wonders what the human toll will be.

So much of the carnage is fueled by fear. The specter of violence creates an urge to own a gun for protection, and as more guns are bought, more violence ensues; a deadly cycle from which to escape is nearly hopeless.

The gun manufacturers and the gun magazines, through their puppet, the National Rifle Association, feed this fear. Simple profit is the motivation. There is big money in small arms and these organizations are linked together in a macabre plot to arm every American to the teeth.

What are we to do? Do we make the manufacturers put a sign on every weapon saying, "This gun may be hazardous to somebody's health?" Or do we attach an alarm system to them so that when a gun is taken out, it will emit a siren-like sound that warns people that havoc is about to happen? Perhaps everybody could be made to wear bullet-proof vests.

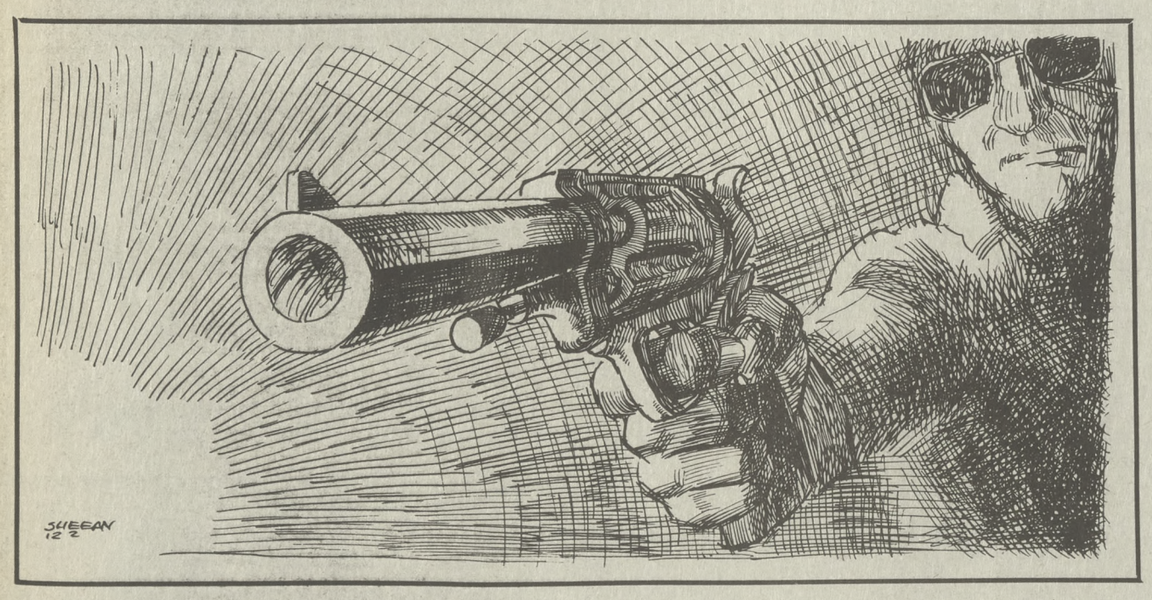
What is needed most, is a concerted effort by the citizenry to get the lawmakers to take courageous action and vote for laws that limit the manufacture and sale of handguns, and eventually to take the guns away from their owners.

"Fat chance," you say. I agree. The battle for such laws would make for a tumultuous time in our history. An untold amount of violence would erupt as many gun owners fight for their right to keep their weapons. It is then a brave soul who would dare suggest a thing.

But I do suggest it, even though I know that in this current political environment, with the bulk of our lawmakers being a timid bunch, cowed by the monied and powerful NRA, it is not likely to happen. Yet I propose that we, the people, who are the possible victims of a handguns' eruption, band together to elect local and national politicians who are of a braver mind. We must, for it is our lives that are at stake.

As a member of "Handgun Control, Inc.," I see the need for tough laws to stem the invasion of the guns. But we all must come together on this, because without a majority, we do not stand a chance of ridding ourselves of this problem.

If we are successful, however, we Americans can finally be at peace with ourselves.



Should abortion be called "Mother-assisted suicide?"

By KIM McDANIEL
Staff Writer

What's all this fuss over a few unwanted fetuses? Who's really behind this anti-abortion kick anyway? Some say that abortion is murder. Others say that it is an inalienable right. I think the confusion stems from the fact that the United States has a double standard on death.

It's okay to send boys to their death while fighting someone else's war. It's okay to sentence criminals to their death when they have committed atrocities against humanity. And, just recently, it has been deemed okay for doctors to kill terminally ill patients--"doctor assisted suicide" they're calling it, or euthanasia.

But many believe that it's not okay for a woman to terminate an unwanted fetus. Why is that?

Why the distinction between different kinds of death? Death is death. Why is one kind of killing better than another?

I say it's because of money. Money makes the world go round, as they say, and wars make a lot of money for the people that run them. Putting criminals away preserves the welfare of people (future consumers) and their money (future consumer dollars). Euthanasia saves the patient and his family money though admittedly, the doctor and hospital lose (hence you can probably guess who is behind the fight against euthanasia).

So why is it so wrong for a woman to abort a baby, especially when she can't afford to have one?

We could always call it "mother-assisted suicide." Maybe we've been calling it the wrong thing all this time--perhaps we should call it euthanasia instead of abortion, since the doctor is really performing an act of mercy when he aborts a fetus .

What is the real reason behind social pressures to force abortion clinics out of business? Money-men, of course. Babies are big business. They don't want to give up all that money they're going to make off of baby food, infant wear, diapers, etc. not to mention all the income they'll derive from the little tykes as they grow up.

And what would the clothing, fast food, recording and movie industries do without all those teenagers to keep their wallets fat? I believe the secret formula is: lots of babies equals lots of consumer dollars.

Convinced? What are you waiting for? Come on ladies, do your part, support American business. Start cranking out those babies.

Editor's note:
Patricia McCarthy's opinion column entitled "Smoking: Badge of dishonor," printed in the Nov. 11th. issue of the Valley Star, contained a sentence that stated "there are fewer non-smokers than smokers."
The original article stated "there are fewer of you than there are of us," and was edited in error.

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LETTERS

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, should include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented in the Valley Star office, Business Journalism 114, by Monday for the following Thursday.

Disabling the disabled student

Wooden ramps could make or break an education for handicapped

By SUSAN L. WOOD
Staff Writer

Pretend for a moment that it's, once again the first day of school.

You maneuver yourself through a sea of endless bodies moving in different directions. You feel as though you are drowning in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. You finally catch a current of people moving in the direction you want to go, so you allow yourself to get swept along.

The waves of people have diminished in size, instead becoming little swells. You have almost reached your destination.

Already you are a few minutes late for your first class of the new semester. As you draw closer to the room you can hear the professor has already begun calling roll. You can't get into the room to tell him you're present. Or perhaps you can't yell to say, "Here I am!" It doesn't matter: you'll have to drop the class anyway.

You will have to drop the class for the simplest reason:

The room is not equipped with a ramp for your wheelchair.

You turn away from the room and head for your next class.

Already the feeling of being ostracized has set in.

For some of the 429 disabled students currently enrolled at Valley, something as primitive as a wooden ramp could make, or break, their education. Out of the 65 "temporary" bungalow rooms, only 20 have direct access.

Like many departments in the nine-campus L.A. Community College District, the Disabled Student Programs and Services office has been hit hard by the recent budget cuts.

According to Dr. Robert Scott, assistant dean of the DSP&S, Valley has one of the district's largest physically disabled student populations.

The September 1985 district's final budget stated that funds are divided according to the "inferred significance of the functions involved." The official districtwide budget for that year was set at $1,841,496.

Considering the amount of disabled students at Valley, said Scott, the Disabled Program is not getting enough financial support for the amount of students it helps.

"Some colleges are taking more of the share than others," he said. "Our program is growing but the money hasn't been adjusted."

He conceded the whole program is "underfunded."

The budget for the Valley disabled program has been set at $184,000. Scott estimates an additional $40,000 to $50,000 is necessary to effectively operate the program.

"The school is supportive of us and we get a lot of help from (Valley vice president of academic affairs) Ed Young," said Scott. But he also feels that attention must be drawn to the poor financial situation, which has caused serious shortage of office and classroom space for his department.

For instance, he said, the Learning Center for the Disabled, located in the Campus Center, Room 108, "is not enough space." There are no windows and "no walls for privacy. I can't offer them confidentiality," said Scott. Another major detriment to the room is the "poor air circulation."

To the disabled, air circulation and physical education programs are very important, but Scott has had problems with these as well. Last Summer, the only adaptive physical education class was eliminated due to lack of funds. "Physical exercise is important to their overall health...especially the cardiovascular system."

Scott said Jim Gayton, professor of the adaptive physical education programs, "is a lifesaver for people who spend their lives in wheelchairs." But while his enthusiasm for Gayton surfaces, his hopes for this year's summer P.E. program are not too high.

JOE BINOYA / Valley Star

John Swicegood wheels around students in the arcade. Swicegood and other disabled students frequently must fight their way through a maze of people on Valley's campus.

The disabled program is not getting financial support for the amount of students it helps, according to Robert Scott, assistant dean of the Disabled Students Programs and Services

One of the more important student positions on campus is the Associated Student Union's Commissioner of Handicapped Awareness. This person acts as a liaison between Scott's office and the Associated Student Union.

At this time there is a fund of approximately $1,000 available for the promotion of the disabled program. Scott believes this money has not been used by the ASU because the position of Commissioner has yet to be filled. Says Scott, "I want that money utilized."

The *Star* attempted to contact ASU President Laura Lyons, but the calls were not returned.

Due to the lack of disabled program promotion Scott said "a lot of people aren't aware of the comprehensive services offered."

However, he finds himself in a Catch-22 situation. He does not want to publicize the services offered and be incapable of fulfilling them due to a lack of funds.

Due to this lack, the department has to rely on volunteers. Scott needs volunteers to do "whatever one would be willing to do, even if it were only for an hour a week."

There are at least four volunteer positions available in Scott's office. One position, mobility assistant, entails helping with equipment such as electric wheelchairs. Volunteers for this position must be mechanically inclined.

A volunteer is also needed to help with the accumulation of office paperwork. A volunteer tutorial assistant is needed to help record books onto cassettes and instruct disabled students. A volunteer is also needed to help the disabled with school registration.

One new face in Scott's program is Allen Franklin. Franklin, a physical therapy aid in a hospital, was walking past the adaptive physical education room one day when he offered to help with the PE program.

Another volunteer is Allen Bakst, himself disabled. Bakst, said Scott, "has his own understanding of the problem." But it isn't necessary to have that understanding to be a volunteer.

Scott believes there "are still misconceptions existing which permeate the whole culture" about the disabled. One widely accepted belief is that physical imperfections reflect mental imperfections. "That is simply not true," he said.

(Editors note: This is one in a series of profiles on organizations and people at Valley College.)

Theft...

(Continued from Page 1)

been arrested for vehicle-related offenses," according to J.J. Wolf, captain of Campus Police.

Wolf said that nine cars have been reported stolen on campus and 22 have been broken into this semester. Four of the break-ins were nicknamed the "Cat Caper" by Valley's police staff because the thieves only took stuffed "Garfields" that sat on the dash.

Responding to the claim that many of the 47 thefts occurred on campus, Wolf said, "I can figure two or three people going to the LAPD without contacting us, but not more than 30."

He went on to explain that the 969 area, where the car thefts occurred, covers five square miles in Van Nuys, which is a high crime district.

"In recent vehicle-involved crimes here, all suspects have been from off campus, not Valley students." added Wolf. "Compared to other campuses, Valley is basically crime-free."

An LAPD officer said that they recover 97 percent of stolen cars. Unfortunately the figure doesn't take into account the time factor or the condition in which the automobiles are returned.

News Note

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The United Way will be conducting a fund-raising campaign beginning today and continuing through Dec. 18, to support the financial needs of more than 350 agencies.

Members of the faculty and staff have recieved payroll deduction cards and approximately 90 employees contribute. A given amount is deducted monthly from their checks.

Although students usually donate loose change, Dr. Pauline Merry said, "the amount of money is not the principal at stake." The United Way mainly publicizes itself on campus to raise awareness of those who are in need of assistance.

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Jammin' blues

By KAREN BROOME
Entertainment Editor

For an industry plagued with copycat artists and commercialized tunes, it is refreshing to see a band emerge from the local club scene with original lyrics and hard hitting danceable songs.

Described as "R&B with an edge" by the band's organizer, Bryce Mobrae, *The Woodpeckers*' sound fuses the energy of Rock & Roll with the deep emotion of the Blues.

To further confuse the auditory senses, a slight undertone of Jazz emanates from Stan 'the Bhagwan' Kubacki's saxophone, for a full rich sound that defies classification.

Composed of veteran performers, *The Woodpeckers* have a systematic plan for success.

The music is strong. The lyrics are original. The choreography, which loosely emulates *ZZ Tops* style, is tight and a devoted club following is well established.

"If this were a company progress graph, it would be escalating at a 45 degree angle, with no plateaus," said Mobrae. "The next phase is the record deal."

With the album will come the major media coverage and a first class tour. Later, the band would like to try a concept video to give added exposure.

"To go out on the road now is guaranteed to break up the band," said Mobrae, referring to a shoe-string tour without major studio backing. "We've all done that before."

Also, traveling is difficult on the band members with families. Everyone would have to give up their daytime jobs. Besides, the record companies are here, added Mobrae.

By limiting their performances to two gigs per month, *The Woodpeckers* can ensure that fans turn out in force and avoid over saturating the market while attempting to secure a recording contract.

The band's attorney has been contacted by representatives from EMI and RCA, so their big break looks close at hand.

It's little wonder that this innovative group would attract attention after stealing the show at their previous engagements.

In fact, the Starlight Amphitheater staff was so impressed with their performance in October, that *The Woodpeckers* should open for Stevie Ray Von next season.

"I believe in minimalism," said Mobrae. "Good bands like *ZZ Top* and *The Police* don't overplay. They use simple drumbeats and sparse guitar to provide a blank canvas for the singer. Quality lyrics need not be hidden in a confetti of drum rolls."

Rhythm and Blues with an edge, demonstrated with powerful stage presence by Bryce Mobrae and Jerry Skol of The Woodpeckers. Their next performance is on Dec. 5 at The Palomino Club.

The Woodpeckers (from left to right): Paul Kallestad, Brian G., Jeff Stacy, Bhagwan, Bryce Mobrae and Jerry Skol.

A collaboration between bassist Jerry 'The Bandit' Skol and writer, guitarist and vocalist Bryce Mobrae, account for much of the group's originality.

"Jerry is the catalyst to my creative process. He feeds me great ideas. About 70 percent of the material comes from some small musical rift he develops. I write around the rift," said Mobrae

"My attitude is irreverent when it comes to song writing," comments Mobrae. "I like to make the masses look at issues a little lighter. I try to inject humor, as with our song *Drunk in the Driveway*."

"I play the tape recorder more than the guitar," said Mobrae. "I know it's good when I feel it, but I'm a writer."

In 10 years or so, Mobrae can see himself pulling out of the performing aspect of the band to continue his retirement. Presently, it takes 14 hours a day to keep the progress on an uphill climb.

The Woodpeckers would like to pursue the college market in more depth. They feel the students would appreciate good writing and the group's hard hitting rhythm. Also, the college circuit would not jeapordize over-exposure for the record deal.

On Dec. 5, *The Woodpeckers* will be featured at The Palomino with the *Blues Busters* and on Dec. 17 at the Coconut Teaser. They will backup *Dogs on Trial*, which is composed of supporting members of superstar bands.

This group has the necessary ingredients for success. Their tunes are fun to dance to and entertaining for those who simply like to listen.

Add to that a dynamic stage presence and outstanding solo performances and it becomes apparent why this act should not be missed.

With enough material to fill an album already, *The Woodpeckers* should soon be on the charts. Look for *She's Bad* as a title track, it's great.

Revelations of life

By MARIA HAMAGAKI
Assoc. Entertainment Editor

The time is Jan. 6, 1904, and the family celebration of the Epiphany in Dublin, Ireland is about to take place in the film *The Dead*.

This is director John Huston's last feature film. He died on Aug. 28, 1987.

The Dead doesn't boast a plot, nor is it an action-packed adventure. Instead, it is a profound revelation underscoring the elements that should take priority in everyone's life. The ending jolts the viewer with a sudden manifestation of life and death.

"*The Dead* confronts you with certain facts of life, love, marriage, passion and death, and forces you to face them," Huston said.

It is ironic that a story delicately dealing with relationships was Huston's last artistic statement.

Huston loved Ireland and raised his family in St. Clerans, Galway. James Joyce was the most influential writer in his life.

His son, Tony Huston, superbly adapted James Joyce's classic into screenplay format. He creates three-dimensional characters with imaginative dialogue.

Strict attention to detail of costuming, camera work and consideration of the film's hue articulately add to the quality, which is so prevalent in Huston's films.

The anxiety of visiting with family and friends is strongly conveyed as hostesses Aunt Kate and Aunt Julia, respectively and believably portrayed by Helena Carroll and Cathleen Delany, answer the clanking doorbell.

Lily, the maid, aptly played by Racheal Dowling, confirms that fresh towels are laid and the goose has been basted.

A festive ambience greets the guests as they fill the modest townhouse. Two of the guests, Gretta and Gabriel Conroy, are brilliantly portrayed by Angelica Huston and Donal McCann.

The screen vibrates with richly authentic Irish accents as the dialogue reveals the quick-wittedness of the Irish and the excellent orchestration of characters

A dinner table scene, scattered with nonsensical conversation, epitomizes the party. The sumptuous meal of basted goose, plum pudding and garnish is spiced with Irish humor and temper.

The film is a universal recollection of family and friends enjoying the moment. A piano playing promotes gaiety, taunting the guests to dance. They sing and recite prose, typical in family gatherings.

In every family there is the politician of the other persuasion and the drunkard who bluntly repeats his realization, trying to make his point.

The incipience of a quarrel is tactfully disrupted by a wise family member.

A sense of mutuality and connectedness of all things and all people is what the creators of *The Dead* want to convey, and they do. It also gives an insight to John Huston's state of mind in his last years. *The Dead* is truly a work of art.

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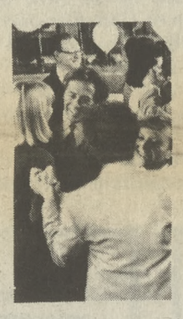

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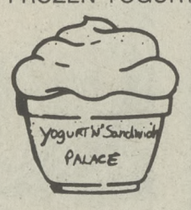

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Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
Music Dept. Recital Hall

Cellist Glenn Grab &
Pianist Ronna Binn
Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.
Music Dept. Recital Hall

Movie rates 'Less Than Zero'

By KATHY CROUCH
Assistant Sports Editor

Less Than Zero, starring Andrew McCarthy, is a film without a cause. McCarthy plays Clay Easton, a college freshman back from the east for the Christmas holiday at his Beverly Hills home.

Poor Clay returns to find his best friend Julian Wells, Robert Downey, Jr., addicted to cocaine and in debt for $50,000 to a local dealer named 'Rip.'

After this basic introduction, all the film tells us about Clay is that he is boring, has no mind of his own and is stupid enough to threaten Rip with Rip's bodyguard standing five feet away.

The whole story takes Clay from one fantastic nightclub to another, looking for Julian or Blair, his girlfriend played by Jami Gertz. It almost appears as if he could care less whether or not he finds them.

He believes Julian every time he tells Clay he is, "Fine, [didn't] need to see a doctor, or go to a hospital," even when Julian had his head stuck in a bucket vomiting for days on end after a long drug binge.

Blair wants Clay to talk to Julian. Julian wants to buy a nightclub. Clay asks his father for $50,000. Julian talks to Clay and sincerely convinces him that he has no problems, needs no help, but could really use fifty grand.

Downey is excellent in his role as the Beverly Hills rich kid gone to drugs. Julian's father has thrown him out on the street and cut off financial support from the rest of the family, as well.

Julian sleeps on park benches and Malibu beaches. Doesn't he ever get arrested for vagrancy? Not in this film, which is rich in shallowness and poor on realism.

When one of Rip's hoods destroys Blair's apartment, Clay walks in and says, "Let's go, Blair," as he paternally takes her hand. Not even a second glance at the spray-painted death notice to Julian on the wall. Not even an "Oh my God." Clay is a dead fish, with absolutely no motivation for anything he does.

Why does he keep running after Julian? OK, so they are childhood friends, but Clay is extremely naive in his belief that he can rescue Julian from the clutches of cocaine.

This kid wears suits and ties everywhere he goes, at 19. Right. Julian is the most real person in this film. He cries, he bleeds, he screws up, he is destroyed by his father's indifference.

It is hard to tell if Clay even really loves Blair, whom he returns to despite her drug use.

He comes and goes from his Beverly Hills mansion at all hours of the night, but his folks don't seem to mind. He spends half the time at Blair's, anyway.

Less Than Zero originated as a book written a few years ago by Bret Easton Ellis. It was a best-seller, but the film, scripted by Harley Peyton, doesn't do it justice.

Ellis was barely out of school himself when he wrote the novel, which was based on his own personal experience as a rich kid in Beverly Hills.

If this story sounds at all interesting, take a tip: buy the book, it's much better. The film isn't worth the price of admission.

Expanding views

By Judith Waxman
Staff Writer

Is art life? Is life art? Is love a disorder?

These questions are slyly asked and smilingly answered in an original theatrical production titled *Love and Art and Other Disorders.*

In 11 comedy vignettes, *Love and Art and Other Disorders* takes a contemporary look at the absurdity of the human condition and asks how can one deal with life and not laugh at it?

Quick with a quip and a quirk, writer Tim Ryan dissects critics, comedy, commercials, relationships and group therapy.

One vignette, *The Greeks Discover Comedy*, is foolish and funny with sight gags of a pie in the face and eyeglasses, bushy eyebrows and a large nose.

In *Something in Development*, a script is changed from sad to glad for "megabucks."

"My story is about Armageddon," the writer protests. "Doesn't mean we can't have fun with it," says the studio executive.

Another vignette, *The Hard Sell*, has advertising personnel sing, dance and pray that dandruff will not go away.

In *Group Therapy*, a man and a woman discuss their neurosis: "I'm a compulsive liar," he says. "Really?" "No."

Between vignettes, a guide talks to the audience. "Rule number one is no smoking; rule number two is no eating; rule number three is no jabbering." Of course, the guide smokes, eats and jabbers.

Tim Ryan, who acts in the production with a cast of eight performers, also wrote and directed the production.

One of the performers, Tule Livingston, has been a full-time student in Valley College since Spring '87.

"I rediscovered the thrill of being on stage," said Livingston on opening night.

Livingston portrays an art critic, an argumentative daughter, an advertising and film executive and a woman in therapy.

Acting for 15 years, Livingston found the roles "challenging" and hopes they "will help me grow as an actress."

Livingston, who also works as a legal secretary, credits Valley English teacher John Zounes as "encouraging" her in her studies.

Love and Art and Other Disorders opened Friday, Nov. 13 and continues Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. until Dec. 19.

The Jack Kosslyn Studio is located at 666 No. Robertson Blvd. in West Hollywood. For tickets and information, call (213) 278-5882.

Hide and seek

By CHRISTINE ZIAYA
Staff Writer

In his latest movie *Hiding Out*, Jon Cryer plays a 27-year-old stockbroker in serious trouble with the mob. He becomes a high school senior again to escape a deadly fate.

The film changes its genre just as quickly as Cryer changes his identity. What starts out as an action-packed thriller, soon turns into a tepid comedy.

In their attempt to appeal to audiences of all ages, the film makers have created a smorgasbord, blending bullets with acne blemishes and adding sex as the spice.

After a little of this and a little of that, the result is more like a belly-ache than a belly laugh.

The story revolves around Cryer's portrayal of Andrew Morenski aka Maxwell Hauser, who took his alias from a can of coffee. Along with a couple of colleagues, Andrew is set to testify against leading syndicate bosses.

When assassins kill Andrew's buddy and begin pursuing him, he starts to have second thoughts about his own veracity.

Dodging a torrent of bullets, old Andy decides he doesn't want to wait and see what the mob has in mind for him. Instead, he hightails it out of Boston and treks down to Delaware.

Minus a good deal of hair and his exquisite Italian suit that he traded with a hobo, Andrew finds refuge in the home of his 16-year-old cousin Patrick, played by Keith Coogan.

When Aunt Lucy (Cryer's real-life mom Gretchen Cryer) doesn't recognize her nephew, Andrew knows he's on the right track.

All too soon, he meets the bland and naive 16-year-old Ryan Campbell (Annabeth Gish).

Without reason, except the script says to, Andrew falls madly in love with the young virgin, and must battle his less-than-pure longings for her.

Meanwhile, after a classroom episode in which Maxwell denounces former president Nixon, the student body decides to rally for his victory as senior class president.

Because Maxwell hasn't forgotten from whence he came—he continues using his bank card for instant cash—the assassins are soon back on his track.

It's easy to guess who wins the final challenge.

As Andrew/Maxwell, Cryer makes an earnest attempt to carry the show to its finish. It's questionable if he is ready to be a "star." His one-dimensional performance lacked depth, and his scenes with Gish lacked the expected electricity.

Many of the other characters were also flat. Blame goes to screenwriters Joe Menosky and Jeff Rothberg and director Bob Giraldi.

Menosky and Rothberg's blatant use of stereotypes made it difficult to develop these characters, but Giraldi seemed to have disregard for thorough characterization as well.

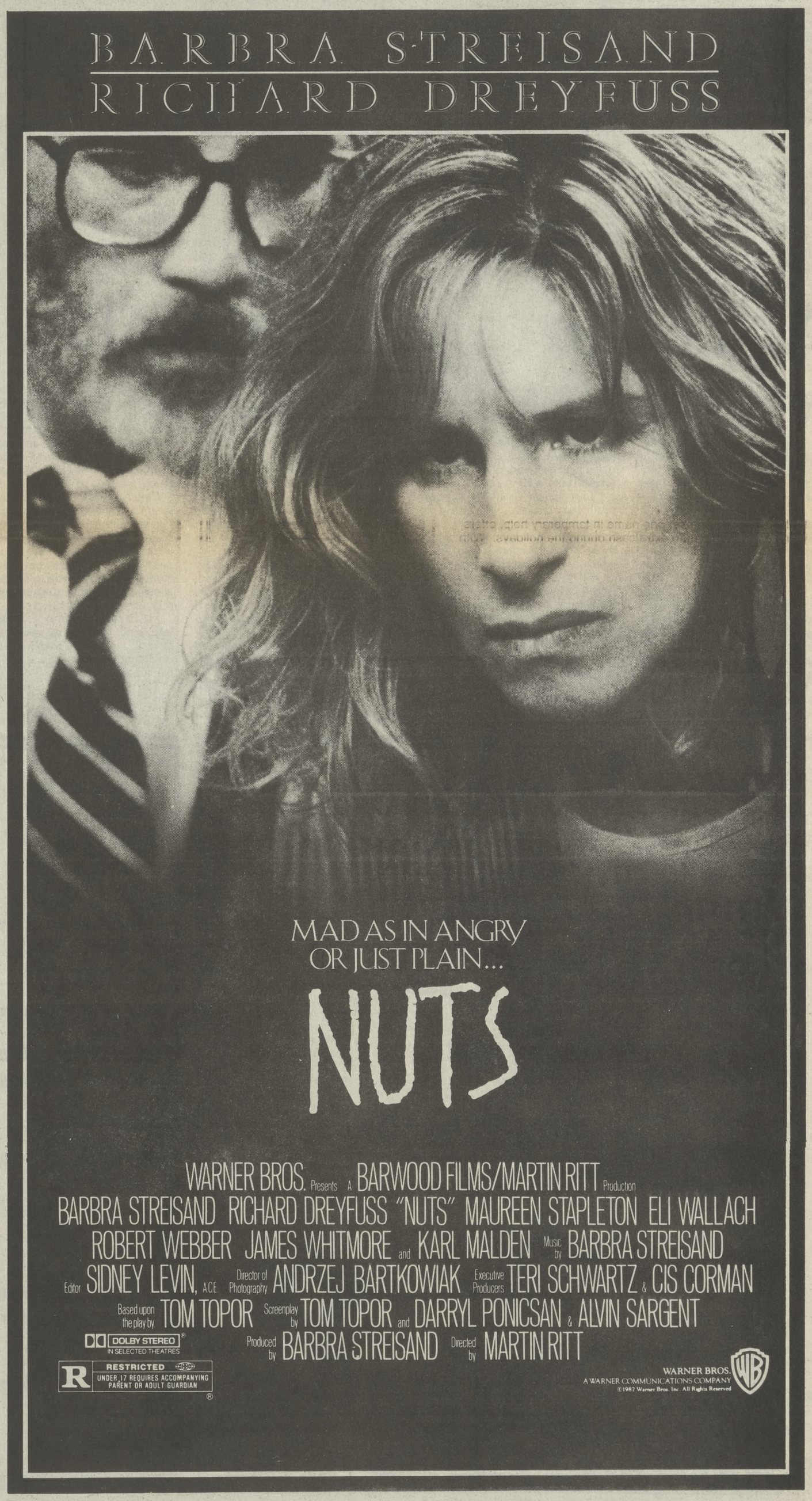
Nonverbal communications, which are generally used to demonstrate the intricacies in relationships, were kept to a minimum.

Giraldi's expertise as a director of commercials and music videos was obvious, however, in the striking visual images and crisp editing.

Though there are a few laughs here and there, overall the film fails in both genres. Where it does succeed though is as a commercial.

In their eagerness to make a few more bucks, the film makers must have made a lucrative deal with the manufacturers of Marlboro cigarettes. Not only was the cigarette box strategically placed in several of the scenes, but even the name "Marlboro" was used in the movie's dialogue.

And with Cryer puffing away in scene after scene, even through the smoke, it was easy to see what was really being said.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Monarchs take crown

By OPAL CULLINS
Sports Editor

The Lady Monarchs won the Fullerton Championship, 3-0, last Saturday but had a letdown Tuesday losing 64-62 to Cerritos. The defeat leaves Valley with a 4-1 record.

"We had a serious lack of concentration. We weren't prepared to play mentally so soon after Fullerton," said Coach Doug Michelson.

Nothing seemed to go right for the Monarchs when they traveled to Cerritos College and encountered Cerritos' half court defense.

"The match-up, which combines man-to-man coverage and zone defense, gave us the biggest problem," said Coach Michelson.

Valley was plagued with turnovers and saddled with fouls through the match which knocked a big hole in the Monarch offense.

Leading scorer Dematra Johnson fouled out of the game after playing for only eight minutes in the second half.

Johnson scored 17 points and had eight rebounds in the first half. Traci Adkins filled in with 15 points and eight rebounds. Bernadette Tillis garnered 12 points, nine assists and eight steals. Ruth Aguilar put in seven points and pulled in seven rebounds.

Valley battled back to tie the game at 62 with 50 seconds remaining in the game, but dropped the chance to seize the lead when Cerritos converted a Monarch turnover with five seconds left on the clock.

The Monarchs went down fighting as Tillis missed a 30 footer in the final second of the game.

In the Fullerton Championship the Monarchs took the title when they defeated host Fullerton 82-68 on the final day of the three day tournament.

Johnson was named Valley's most valuable player after leading the Monarchs with 27 points and 11 rebounds. Adkins scored 23 points and was (8-9) off the floor and (7-8) from the free-throw line.

Tillis made the All-Tournament team with 10 points and eight assists. Shaggrro Lattin came off the bench and collected seven points, six rebounds and two steals. Aguilar matched Johnson with 11 rebounds.

Fullerton opened the final round with home-court crowd advantage, two points and a full court press.

Valley's inside running game drew fouls and turnovers early in the first half that had Valley playing catch-up to Fullerton for most of the half.

"Fullerton got into the seams of our zone defense," said Coach Michelson.

"We had a letdown in the first half," said sophomore Johnson.

The Monarchs appeared to have a mental lapse during the half as Fullerton kept the pace with perimeter shot-making.

Valley gained momentum when guard Nikki Adams ran off the bench and sparked a wave of enthusiasm among the Monarchs that carried them out to a one point lead at the end of the half.

"We had a rough time with Fullerton but we kept our heads together and played with intensity and poise," said freshman Aguilar.

"We hurt them with percentage shooting," said Coach Michelson.

Valley was able to shake Fullerton's press and seal the win when they surged ahead in the second half with high percentage shots.

"We like to see a press because we can handle it," said Coach Michelson.

The taste of victory was sweet for the Monarchs when they defeated last season's rival Golden West, 73-65, in the second round of the tournament.

The win evened the score for the Monarchs who had previously lost twice to Golden West.

"We wanted revenge, we just couldn't lose to them a third time," said sophomore Tillis.

Valley had built a 27-17 lead early in the first period but was outscored 19-3 on a Golden West run late in the period.

Golden West took a 35-30 halftime lead during the run as Monarch errors resulted in turnovers and missed rebounds.

"We started off with a 12 point lead but we got a bit cocky and over confident. We played lousy during the first half," said Tillis.

Johnson led the Monarch offense with 27 points and 12 rebounds. Tillis trailed with 14 points and 14 assists. Adkins had 12 points and nine rebounds. Aguilar dropped in 10 and had a season high 13 rebounds.

Valley came back in the second half and put the game on ice when Tillis connected with Adkins for three points with 90 seconds remaining in the game.

The Monarchs swept past Orange Coast 79-51 in the opening Round of the Fullerton tournament.

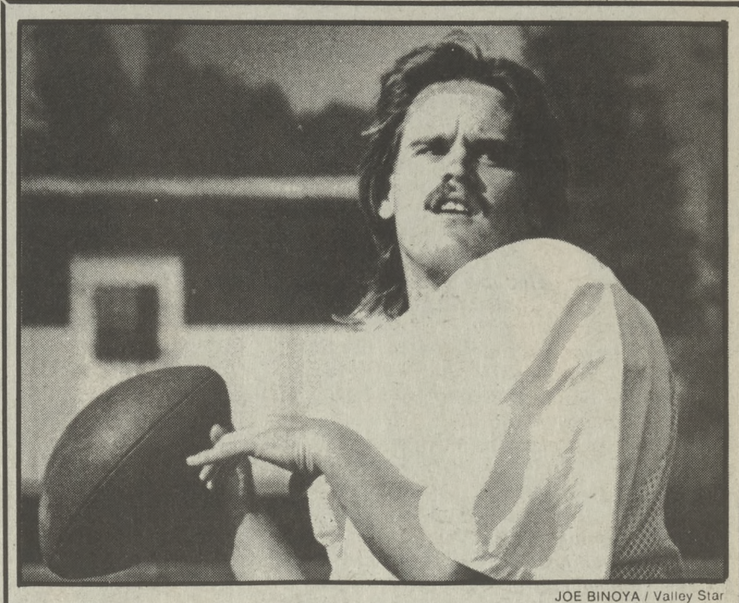
Sophomore Adkins' 21 points and six rebounds led Valley to the win. Sophomore Tillis followed with 17 points and 12 assists. Tillis ended the first half by dropping in a lay-up for a Monarch 32-30 halftime lead.

Freshman Tevis Anderson came off the Monarch bench and contributed 12 points while Johnson, the leading sophomore, added eight points but finished the game with five assists, five steals and 12 rebounds.

Johnson and Aguilar drew fouls in the first half.

Valley shot 79 percent and was 11-14 from the free-throw line.

Valley will travel today, Friday and Saturday to the Cypress Tournament.



JOE BINOYA / Valley Star

Win, lose or draw—

Hanks passes on

By BARBIE LANGE
Opinion Editor

"Football keeps me interested in school," says Barry Hanks, Valley's 21-year-old record setting quarterback.

Hanks started playing football when he was eight-years-old for a Pop Warner league known as the "Mighty Mites."

Described as very intense by Coach Ferraro, Hanks, at 6'1" and 190 pounds with light red blond hair, is an impressive quarterback under pressure.

"He is the leading sophomore in all State categories, ranking high in passing yards," said Coach Ferraro.

Born in Pacoima, Hanks attended El Camino Real High School. "High school really started my career," said Hanks.

Winning for Valley is his main goal. "I am intense when I play, I think about everything I have been coached on and go play."

Hopping on his motorcycle to pursue the outdoors on Sunday's with his family, which includes three older brothers, is very special for Hanks, as homework and school take up most of his time. "Sunday's are my only day off," said Hanks.

Hanks is a Broadcasting Major, currently enrolled in Journalism Mass Communications, California History and a Theatre class. Homework and football practice keeps him busy. "I would not play football if I had the pressure of a job," he said.

Teammate and best friend James Reaves is Hank's favorite wide receiver, playing together for six years, including high school and Valley. "Barry has always been a great quarterback," said Reaves. "He always gets the ball to me and under pressure, keeps his head."

Reaves attended Moorpark College last year, but was persuaded by Hanks to come to Valley to play this Fall.

Tailback Dondre Bausley said "Hanks is like a coach on the field, able to read the defense." He keeps everybody pumped up during the game when driving down the field." When it comes to blocking, Bausley says "He (Hanks) is a scrappy player, throws good blocks and screens out the defense."

Hank's relationship with Coach Ferraro is different than last year with the hiring of Coach Fenwick, formerly of Pierce College. "CoachFenwick's methods of teaching, compared to Head Coach Ferraro, takes a different approach in the training program," said Hanks. "Coach Ferraro, who worked primarily with the offense, took a lot of time with me last year, showing me films and helping me out with a lot of drills."

In comparison, Coach Fenwick has taken over the offense team, with more teaching done. Coach Fenwick gives chalk talks in the field, along with scouting sheets that must be studied weekly and returned on Friday's, in addition to studying films of past games.

"I enjoy playing: win, lose or draw," said Hanks. "It's not a business yet. It will become a business when I go to a University next year."

Arks warm up for Valley

By OPAL CULLINS
Sports Editor

The sounds of summer boomerang on a chilly afternoon just when you think you have successfully made the transition from one season and sport to another.

A small, solid white ball with red,zagging seams disappears over the perimeters of Valley's baseball diamond close to the Monarch Stadium as Monarch Coach Kevin Murphy instructs his "fall" ball team, the Van Nuys Arks, in a non-conference winter league.

The league is a warm-up for the spring season that offers high school students, recruits and transfers playing time with experienced two-year college players and four-year colleges such as Loyola Marymount, CSUN and CSULA.

"Valley College does not sponsor the Van Nuys Arks, although we use Valley's turf for practice and a few scheduled games," said Coach Murphy.

The fall ball team will, however, comprise the Monarchs' 1988 spring roster. Valley ended its 1987 conference with a 13-14 record.

"Last season we didn't have any particular strengths. We were a real young team with six freshmen as starters. We won games because we were better prepared than other teams," said Coach Murphy.

Valley will have only two freshmen starting for the 1988 season. Pitching and experience will be areas of strength for the Monarchs

"We will have strong pitching with the best pitchers available in the Valley, and the experience of returning players is always a plus," said Coach Murphy.

Coach Murphy believes these factors could result in Valley reaching the regional play-offs and winning the conference championship.

The Arks presently set for the Monarch starting line-up include: First-base, sophomore Mat Arnold; Second-base-Shortstop,sophomores Dan Miner and Ray Sabado; Third-base, sophomore John Quick; Left-field, sophomore Marty William and Chris Gonzalez; Center-field, Jason Peterson and Mike Caputi.

Right-field, Moorpark transfer Shaun Thompson, the leading Ark batter with a .346 average; Catcher, a toss-up between Darrell Handesman and Erik Vargas (not of the big top fame).

Freshmen Tim Degrasse and Joey Kane from Notre Dame lead the pitching staff.

"In high school Tim cut-up people, you have to stay with pitching like that. He pitches a fast ball, just below the 85 miles standard speed of a professional player," said Coach Murphy.

"Kane will help the pitching staff because he is a rare commodity. You don't see a left-hander like him as often as you see right-handed pitchers," said Coach Murphy.

Coach Murphy recruited Vargus, Arnold, Kane and DeGrasse during the summer. Try-outs for the Van Nuys Arks were held during the first week of the fall semester.

The Van Nuys Arks have already completed two-thirds of their 32 game schedule with 10 games played at Valley and a 10-12 record.

"It is not important if we win or lose here because we are making strides," said Coach Murphy, reflecting on the progress the team has made.

The Arks will host San Jose on Jan.19 and Long Beach on Jan. 26 at 2 p.m.

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Student's tale of two countries

By JUDITH WAXMAN
View Editor

Ever dream of going to Europe?

For years I did, until the day I heard these words in my journalism class: "If anyone is interested in joining me in a planned tour of England and France this summer," said Bob Crosby, photo adviser to the Valley Star, *"please see me after class."*

Interested?

You bet!

It was as though a dim light bulb in my mind had just been turned on. Europe, which had always been a mystery to me, suddenly seemed a distinct possibility. Who would ever have dreamed this opportunity was available at Valley College? Of course, I gleaned all the information, gathered the necessary papers and made a partial payment.

But then, Crosby accepted a foreign photography job and dropped out of the trip. Everyone else dropped out too...except me.

As the only Californian in this program going overseas, I was apprehensive. "Who will meet me? How will they know me? How will I get to know them?" Yet I continued to pay, plan and prepare for my first trip to Europe.

Chances are, had it not been for Valley College, I might never have gone.

Thursday: En route-Los Angeles to London.

Looking forward to the unknown and to an exciting time, I finished packing and when my good friend Richard arrived, he drove my dog, Samantha, and me to Los Angeles International Airport.

Leaving Sam with an "I love you and be a good girl," Richard and I entered the busy airport. Richard, God bless him, stayed until I boarded the 747, where the saying, "time flies" took on new meaning.

Friday: On a 10 hour, non-stop flight to London, half-sleeping, half-squirming, I awoke to see the sun rise at 1 a.m. and to eat breakfast at 4 a.m.

After landing in Heathrow Airport, I passed through customs quickly. "On holiday?" the customs man asked as he stamped my passport. "How long will you be visiting?" "Two weeks," I said.

"...as jet lag claimed me, I thought, I wouldn't change places with anyone in the world!"

Plucking my luggage off the conveyor belt, I peered at the people holding up signs. Suddenly, I saw "Waxman"; "That's my name," I said to the man holding the sign. "The young lady will be right back," he said.

Indeed, a young English girl, a Cultural Studies International employee arrived and led me outside. When telling her that I'd been going since yesterday, she said, "You must be shattered." (exhausted).

Shattered and thrilled, when riding from the airport to London on a road the Romans built, I told the driver, "I've always wanted to see England and I'm here!"

In the London hotel lobby on my list, a man appeared, my courier, Niall Enright, telling me that my hotel was changed.

Meeting the other 19 people on the tour (from Texas and Ohio); Niall leading us into the London Underground; changing travelers checks in Covent Garden; eating fish and chips; watching people playing with their dogs and missing Sam; and yet just as jet lag claimed me, I thought, "I wouldn't change places with anyone in the world!"

Saturday: Victorian London had Jack the Ripper; in contrast, modern London has young pickpockets, old buildings with scaffolding and a young-at-heart tourist.

Aboard a "coach" (bus), I looked at aged, ancient streets and sections, seeing Fleet Street (London's newspaper district) and St. Paul's Cathedral (built in 1600, it is the second largest in the world).

I also saw Big Ben, Parliament, Westminister Abbey, Whitehall, 10 Downing St., St. James Park and alit at the Royal Mews in front of Buckingham Palace to see the changing of the guard.

On horseback, resplendent in red tunics with gold braid, tall fur, black hats and black pants, in a centuries old ceremony, the guard was changed.

Then I rode the riverboat up the Thames River, past the Tower Bridge to the Tower of London, which is the oldest fortress in Britain. With its bloody past, sometimes a palace, other times a prison, I walked up and down steps and through streets, reliving history. Of course, I didn't pass through the Traitor's Gate or enter the Bloody Tower!

Back at the hotel, after changing into "smart" clothes, my group and I took the Underground to London's West End, to the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road to see the play, "Court in the Act!"

A bit of alright!

Sunday: It isn't easy being a tourist but somebody has to do it. Adjusting to the time change (8 hours ahead of America) and the sunset (10 p.m.) we ate a continental breakfast then boarded the coach for a field trip to Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon.

The English suburbs, rows upon rows of neat little houses, turned into the green countryside as we sped toward Oxford, England (the town) and Oxford University (the gown).

Ringing church bells welcomed us and a walking tour showed that the university, with its spires and medieval quadrangles, is dispersed throughout the town.

As any tourist knows, taking photos and buying souvenirs is hard work. Thus, a steak and ice cream lunch was necessary...and nice.

In the afternoon, en route to Stratford, I spotted my first thatched (made from reeds) cottage, Blenheim Palace (Churchill's home) with wheat, barley and rye growing in the fields.

In Shottery, a quaint little village, we toured Anne Hathaway's musty smelling, thatched, two-story cottage (1697) and in Stratford, Shakespeare's birthplace, a larger house in town.

Walking the same streets as Shakespeare walked in Stratford-upon-Avon, sitting on the shore of the Avon River and dipping my feet, I felt like Agatha Christie: the "mystery" was being solved.

BOB CROSBY / Valley Star
London's Tower Bridge is one of the oldest bridges on the Thames River.

Monday: Almost as though we were "on the lam" with someone chasing us, my tour group is always on the move.

Leaving London, we boarded our coach and arrived at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England.

Like a typical tourist who wants to see the royal ruler's residence, I viewed the State Apartments, which included the throne room. Of course, it's ornate not ordinary.

Going from ornate to orderly, we entered Bath, England, a precisely planned, architecturally beautiful 18th century city built by the Romans on the banks of the Avon River.

After stowing our suitcases in the Royal York Hotel (est. 1759), we went on a walking tour of Bath beholding square stone buildings discolored and aged with time, Pulteney Bridge, Bath Abbey and the ancient Roman Baths, where mineral waters still emit steam. Those Romans sure knew how to live!

Alone, I walked up a hill, through quiet, curved streets, to the Royal Crescent, a gigantic semi-circular block of buildings one has to see to believe.

Having a 6:30 a.m. wake-up call, I crashed at 9:45 p.m., *before* the sun set.

Tuesday: Indiana Jones has nothing on Judith Waxman; adventure is the name of the game.

Leaving Bath, the prettiest city in Europe, from the coach I gazed at flocks of sheep and herds of cows.

Suddenly, without warning, there it was: Stonehenge, a 4000-year-old prehistoric stone circle monument on a desolate, wind-swept plain. Stonehenge defies deciphering and description. In silent tribute, we walked all around it, awed and impressed.

An hour later we were looking at the Gothic style Salisbury Cathedral, which has the loftiest spire in England. What a peaceful, picturesque town!

Then from Portsmith, we boarded a ship, crossing the English Channel to Le Havre, France. Aboard, I stood on deck, stared at the sea and thought, "I'm actually crossing the English Channel."

Six hours later, we landed in Le Havre, passed French customs and arrived in Bayeux at midnight.

Wednesday: The ringing bells of Bayeux Cathedral signaled the start of a new day. Soon, my tour group and I inspected the 210-foot-long Bayeux tapestry, the largest in the world.

Next, we walked to the Museum of the Battle of Normandie. Here, in Normandie, on June 6, 1944, the allies successfully invaded Europe. 43 years later, I'm here.

Thus, cultured and educated, back in the coach I napped, awakening to see an apparition, le Mont Saint-Michel, a 9-century-old fortress and tourist attraction. We climbed 450 feet, up cloisters and ramparts, to the top and looked down. Phew!

At length, the coach brought us to the Brittany Coast, to oyster and mussel beds, to Saint-Malo, a former pirate stronghold and the third largest port in France. There, we checked into our rooms and reappeared for fantastic French fare: fish with cheese sauce, meat, veggies, cheese, pear pastry and cafe.

Then, in a carnival-like atmosphere, I walked around town, seeing bicycle tricks, hearing a band play "New York, New York" and walked behind the battlements, beyond the sea wall and on the beach.

Thursday: The days are long and the nights are short...too short. At 6:30 a.m., the crying seagulls of Saint-Malo awoke me. Grabbing my still wet laundry, I checked out of the hotel and into the coach.

Soon, stopping in the Chateaux D'Angers, a massive feudal castle, we viewed the 140-meter-long Apocalypse Tapestry. Angers buildings look like pictures in a history book.

After learning that the Loire Valley is famous for its fruits, vegetables and wine, we visited a vineyard in Saumur, seeing the barrels and the bottles in cool caves and sampling the "sparkling wine."

The next stop was Chateau Azay-Le Rideau, which was built in the 15th century.

Friday: I'm suffering from **A B** Citis: (**A**nother **B**loody Cathedral!) Arriving at Chateau Chenonceau, which was built in the 16th century, we walked under the plane trees, past the moat and through the formal gardens to Catherine Di Medici's residence.

BOB CROSBY / Valley Star
The Eiffel Tower in Paris stands 1000 feet high and is built from 15,000 pieces of metal.

Next, doing a quick riccochet by coach, we swung over to the Chateau D'Amboise. There, in the chapel, Leonardo Di Vinci is buried.

Nearby, in Blois, we stopped for lunch (8 francs for a coffee ice cream bar; 1 franc for toilette), then continued on to Chartres Cathedral, which has the finest stained glass in Europe.

Finally, we headed toward Paris. While Parisennes fled the city for a four-day holiday (Bastille Day), I saw my first "Paris" sign.

The first time I saw Paris was at 5:30 p.m. In the distance, I could see the Eiffel Tower, 1000 feet high. At last, my dream had caught up with me.

Saturday: Bonjour, Paris! In the morning, this American in Paris did the grand tour by coach, seeing the Comedie Francais, Napoleon's Arch of Triumph and Notre Dame Cathedral.

"Pinch me," I said to Niall as we walked inside.

Continuing to sight-see by coach, we passed the Latin Quarter, La Sorbonne, Saint Germain, Luxenberg Garden and Palace, Concorde Bridge (built from the Bastille), Avenue Kleber (Jackie O's residence), Napoleon's Tomb, the Hotel Ritz and Elysee Palace (where the president resides).

In the afternoon, this American, alone and on foot, cashed travelers cheques, heard a woman screaming (her pocket was picked!), and outside the Galleries La Fayette, on the Boulevard Osmond, bought souvenirs. (A Paris T-shirt cost 99 francs, the equivalent to 17 American dollars.)

In the evening I walked up a mountain of streets to Montmartre, an artist's colony, to Sacre Coeur (a famous church), and heeding Niall's advice, "Leave before 9 p.m.," down to a Paris sidewalk cafe supper.

Sunday: Paris is a dog's paradise, having over 300,000 trees. It is also the city of light, the city of romance, the city that captures everyone's imagination.

Before surrendering to it, I had a breakfast of croissants and cafe, then rode the Metro to the Arc de Triomphe, which is imposing and massive. While walking around and through it, I saw floral wreaths and bronze memorials to France's fallen soldiers.

Later, I strolled on the Champs Elysee (seeing Parisennes walk with long loaves of bread) to the Bois de Boulogne (a park) and admired the formal floral displays while still missing Sam.

Back in the hotel lobby, I met my tour group and Niall, who led us on a field trip to the Palace of Versailles, one of the most luxurious buildings in the world. We strolled its gracious grounds and gorgeous gardens, to the Petit Trianon, the favorite residence of Marie Antoinette, who lost her head in the French revolution.

Monday: "Bonjour Madame, croissants et cafe noir, merci," I said, ordering breakfast. Thus nourished for a heavy day of sightseeing, my group and I followed Niall in and out of the Metro and into the Louvre Museum, which was erected in the 17th century, yet still enlightens and enriches its viewers today.

With its marbled columns, the Louvre is home to the Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo, Winged Victory and innumerable immortal statues and paintings. Although the light came from a skylight, the real illumination came from Niall as he explained the French and Italian paintings--the color, the context, the composition, which gave them emotion and gave them life.

For the first time, I truly understood and enjoyed priceless art.

Alone, I continued to absorb French culture, riding the Metro to the Bateaux-Mouches for a boat ride on the Seine River. Besides historical buildings and bridges, I saw a smaller Statue of Liberty and nude sunbathers.

Then looking up, I headed for Mr. Eiffel's creation, entering and taking the elevator to the third level. From inside the Eiffel Tower, I looked out at the sun glistening on the Seine, on the glinting rooftops of Paris, seeing Sacre Coure in the distance.

While a band played "Can-Can," I savored a swirled rasberry and vanilla ice cream cone and reflected. Seeing Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower is quite an extraordinary experience, it's a highlight, a thrill.

Quite another experience is again getting lost on the Metro.

Tuesday: Between France and England:

I've always wondered whether I could fit into army life. Now I know I can as I respond to a 6 a.m. wake-up call, 7 a.m. breakfast call and, at 7:30 a.m., be in the coach and on the road! Just when I've got "the hang of it" (the Metro, the franc), we're saying "au revoir" to France.

Three-and-a-half hours later, from Calais, we crossed the English Channel to the white cliffs of Dover.

Back on English soil we visited Canterbury Cathedral, a medieval monastic cathedral, where Thomas a Becket was murdered, then traveled through Kent, the garden of England, to London. I'm in London again, but is it the last time I saw Paris?

Niall made my trip to Europe a success. He was an excellent courier; diplomatic, knowledgable and charming. Some of his favorite expressions were: "No, you didn't get ripped off; are we having fun yet?; what a lovely day; you did the right thing: going out/staying in; it's all part of life's rich tapestry."

Wednesday: Like the song goes:"A foggy day in London town, had me low, had me down. I viewed the morning with much alarm--" ...but the British Museum hadn't lost its charm.

The British Museum is free, fascinating and full of history: The Rosetta Stone, a stone slab with Greek, hieroglyphic and demotic writing; the Elgin Marbles, Grecian Parthenon sculptures; the Magna Carta, the English constitution; Shakespeare's manuscripts and Egyptian mummies.

Back in the hotel lobby, Niall gave us our final instructions for tomorrow's departure.

With just enough energy to put in a wake-up and breakfast call, I packed my suitcases and passed out. I'm one tired tourist.

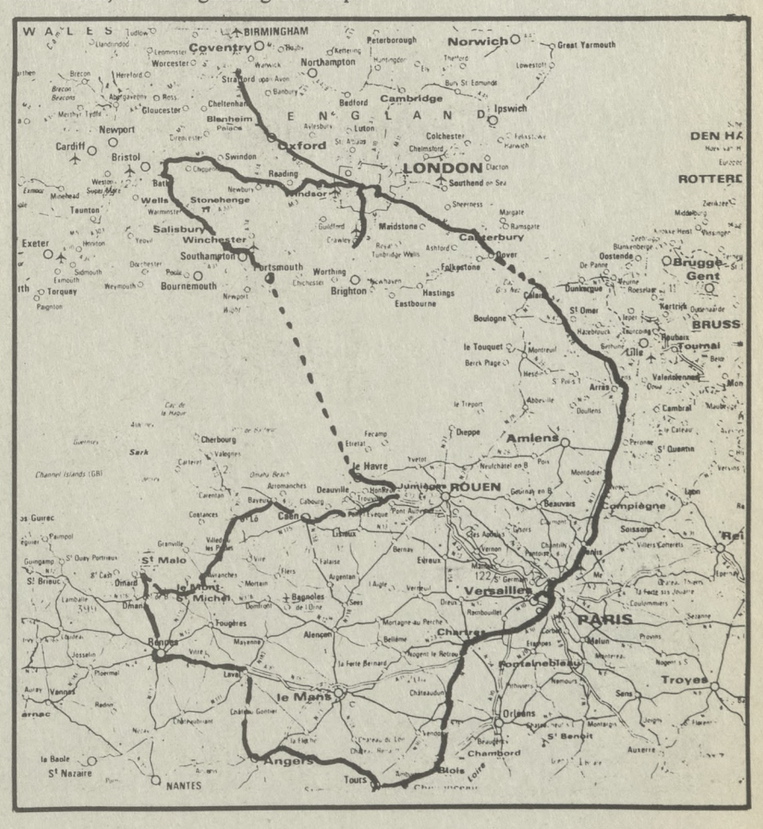
Thursday: After two weeks of sampling the food, stuttering the language and smiling a lot, I'm ready to go home. In typically English weather, rain, Niall and I took the Underground to Heathrow Airport, where I said, "Goodbye" and "thank you" and learned my flight was delayed an hour.

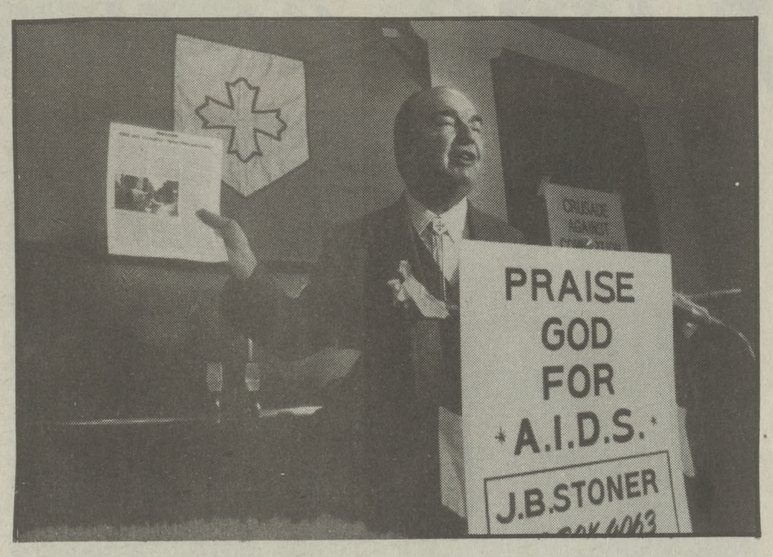
Niall told me that, each year, more people are kicked to death by donkeys or struck by lightning and killed than die in plane crashes.

Thus reassured, I boarded my plane and counted the hours until I could see, hug and kiss Sam again.

12 hours later, I landed in an overcast Los Angeles, where Richard met me. "You're the best thing I've seen in two weeks and I've seen everything," I said, adding, "where's Sam?"

In the airport parking lot I had a reunion with a "shattered" Sam, who wore herself out playing with Richard's two dogs. At home, my car and my apartment were okay. That's what friends are for. But my three favorite fish: a black Mollie and two swordtails are gone, eaten by the aggressive fish that Richard didn't feed for three days.

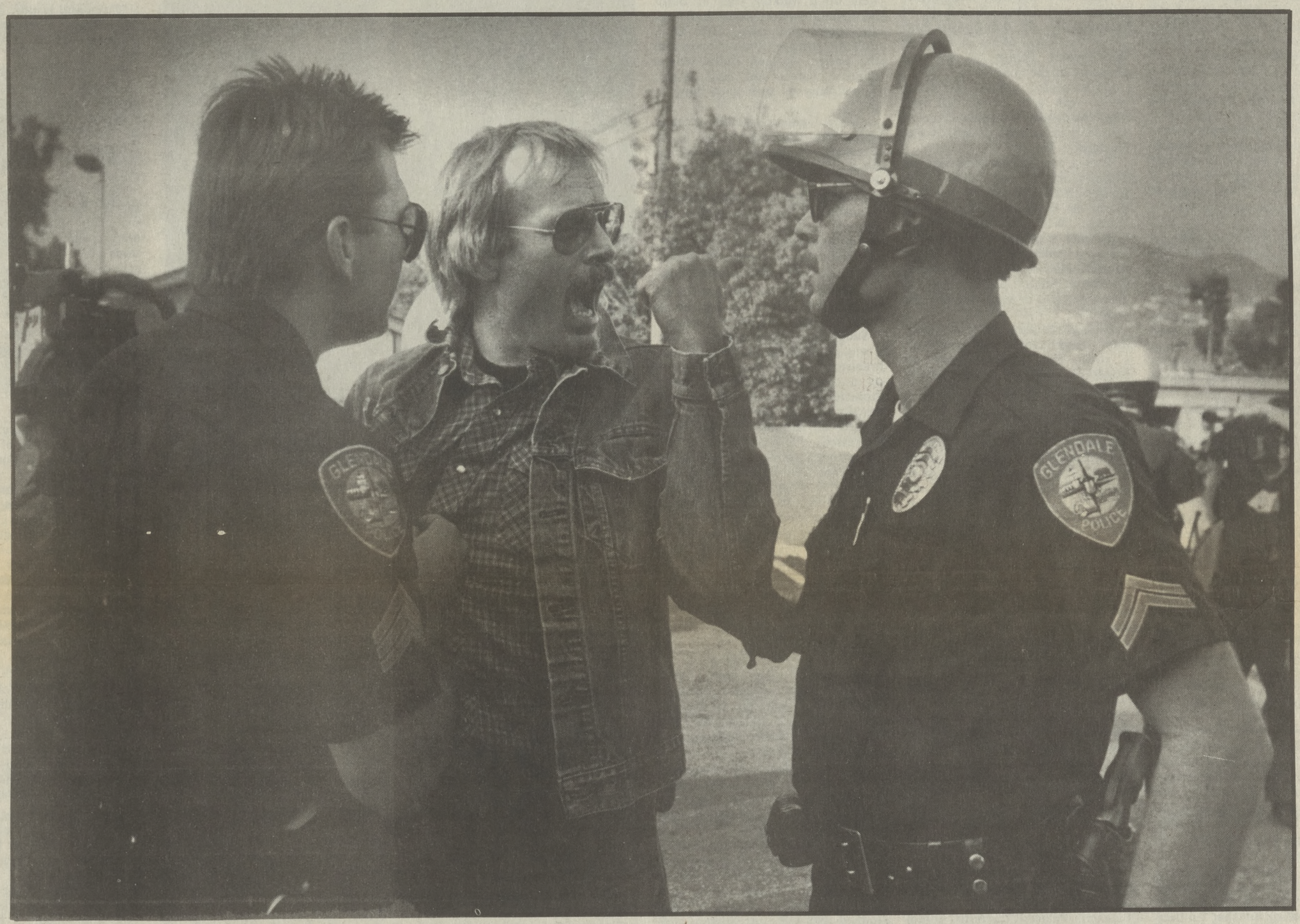


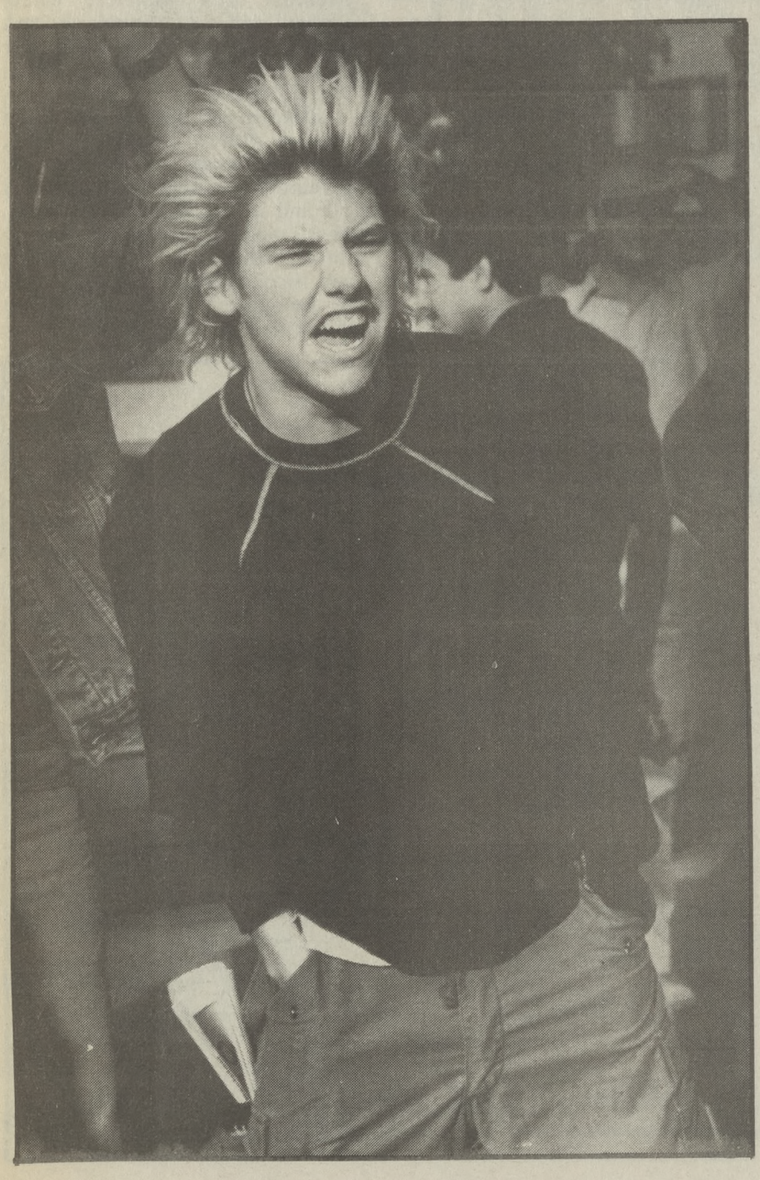


'White Supremists'

a minority vs the majority

Protesters unite for racial equality





On Nov. 22, J.B. Stoner, an outspoken white supremist who served prison time for the bombing of a black church that killed four children in Alabama in 1958, spoke at a reception sponsored by the "Crusade Against Corruption" at the Holiday Inn in Glendale.

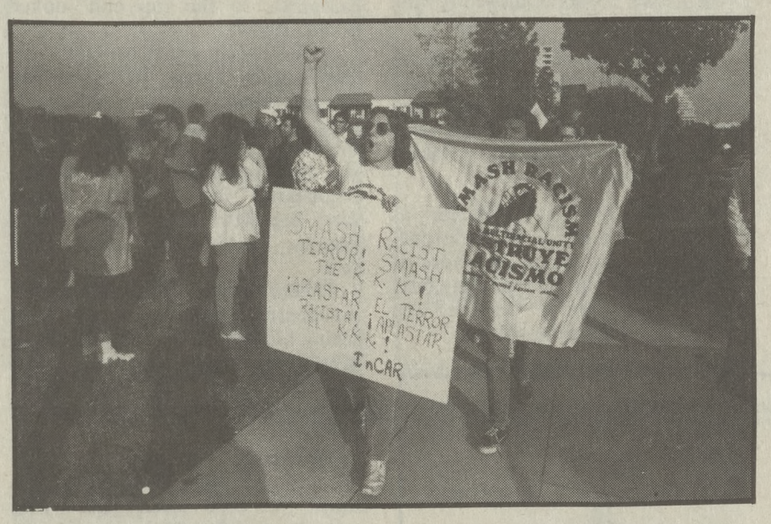
The Crusade Against Corruption is a nationwide, white racist, political group that stands for the rights of white people. Stoner, leader of the group, believes "Affirmative Action" and race-mixing are corruptive. He also believes AIDS is a racial disease of Jews, blacks and homosexuals.

"Without divine intervention, America would have become a new, giant, depraved Sodom and Gomorrah. With AIDS, God is smashing the queers and sending the queer bloc vote to the graveyard," said Stoner.

Approximately 200 protesters and roughly 20 supporters of Stoner showed up. Due to the amount of protesters outside the hotel, various law enforcement agencies came out in force prepared for a riot.

Some supporters of Stoner were attacked by protesters and minutes later police escorted the supporters away. After the groups had disbursed, six people had been arrested. One of which was deputy public defender Mike Lee of the San Fernando Municipal Court.

According to Lee, his motivation for protesting was that he couldn't see Stoner capitalizing off his conviction.



Clockwise from top left: J.B. Stoner, leader of "The Crusade Against Corruption," speaks to the press and his supporters; Mike Lee, a deputy public defender with the San Fernando Municipal Court, was arrested for disturbing the peace and failure to disperse; Protesters exhibited their feelings with anti-racial remarks and posterboard opinions; Law enforcement agencies were out in force equipped with water cannons and police dogs; A protester yells out against white supremacy.

Photos and Text by Daniel Ecoff